

# SENATE BILL 68

O3, D5

(PRE-FILED)

0lr0065  
CF 0lr3450

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By: **Chair, Judicial Proceedings Committee (By Request – Departmental – Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Office of the)**

Requested: November 4, 2009

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2010

Assigned to: Judicial Proceedings

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: February 23, 2010

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Human Relations – Closed-Captioning Activation**  
3 **Required**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring activation of closed captioning on request on certain  
5 television receivers in public areas in places of public accommodation during  
6 regular hours; providing certain exceptions; defining certain terms; and  
7 generally relating to the activation of closed captioning on television receivers in  
8 places of public accommodation.

9 BY adding to  
10 Article – State Government  
11 Section 20–306  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2009 Replacement Volume)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – State Government**

17 **20–306.**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1           (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE  
2 MEANINGS INDICATED.

3           (2) “CLOSED CAPTIONING” MEANS A TRANSCRIPT OR DIALOG OF  
4 THE AUDIO PORTION OF A TELEVISION PROGRAM THAT IS DISPLAYED ON A  
5 TELEVISION RECEIVER SCREEN WHEN THE USER ACTIVATES THE FEATURE.

6           (3) “CLOSED-CAPTIONING TELEVISION RECEIVER” MEANS A  
7 ~~TELEVISION THAT HAS A BUILT-IN DECODER TO DISPLAY CLOSED CAPTIONING~~  
8 RECEIVER OF TELEVISION PROGRAMMING THAT HAS THE ABILITY TO DISPLAY  
9 CLOSED CAPTIONING, INCLUDING A TELEVISION, DIGITAL SET TOP BOX, AND  
10 ANY OTHER TECHNOLOGY CAPABLE OF DISPLAYING CLOSED CAPTIONING.

11           (4) “PUBLIC AREA” MEANS A PART OF A PLACE OF PUBLIC  
12 ACCOMMODATION THAT IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC.

13           (5) “REGULAR HOURS” MEANS THE HOURS OF ANY DAY IN WHICH  
14 A PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION IS OPEN TO MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL  
15 PUBLIC.

16           (B) ~~A~~ ON REQUEST, A PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION MAY NOT  
17 FAIL TO KEEP CLOSED CAPTIONING ACTIVATED ON ANY CLOSED-CAPTIONING  
18 TELEVISION RECEIVER THAT IS IN USE DURING REGULAR HOURS IN ANY PUBLIC  
19 AREA.

20           (C) THIS SECTION DOES NOT REQUIRE A PLACE OF PUBLIC  
21 ACCOMMODATION TO MAKE CLOSED CAPTIONING AVAILABLE IN A PUBLIC AREA  
22 OF THE PLACE OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION IF:

23           (1) NO TELEVISION RECEIVER OF ANY KIND IS AVAILABLE IN THE  
24 PUBLIC AREA; OR

25           (2) THE ONLY PUBLIC TELEVISION RECEIVER AVAILABLE IN THE  
26 PUBLIC AREA IS NOT A CLOSED-CAPTIONING TELEVISION RECEIVER.

27           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
28 October 1, 2010.